

## **REMARKS**

The Office Action of June 30, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Turning first to the claim objections, the present Amendment revises claim 4 to correct the oversight noted at the bottom of page 2 of the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the objection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action again rejects most of the claims for anticipation by U.S. patent 6,392,494 to Takeyabu et al (hereafter simply "Takeyabu"). Nevertheless, the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action acknowledges that claims 7, 15, and 20 are directed to patentable subject matter.

The present Amendment cancels claims 5 and 7 and transfers their subject matter to claim 1. Although this falls short of revising claim 1 to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 7 and all intervening claims (in particular, the present Amendment retains intervening claims 4 and 6 as dependent claims), it is respectfully submitted that the invention now defined by claim 1 is patentable over the Takeyabu reference. In particular, claim 1 now recites that "the first input cascode transistor has ... a drain coupled to the gate of the first input mirror transistor ..." and that "the second input cascode transistor has ... a drain coupled to the gate of the second input mirror transistor ...". This is neither disclosed nor suggested by Takeyabu.

The present Amendment also revises independent claim 8 to include the subject matter of claim 13, which has been cancelled, and part of the subject matter of objected-to claim 15. Intervening claims 9, 12, and 14 have been retained as dependent claims. Independent claim 8 now recites that "the first input cascode transistor has ... a drain

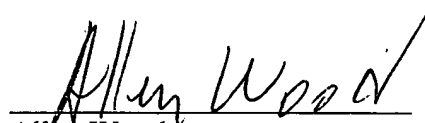
coupled to the gate of the first input mirror transistor ...” and that “the second input cascode transistor has ... a drain coupled to the gate of the second input mirror transistor ...”. Since these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Takeyabu, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by claim 8 is in condition for allowance.

The present Amendment also revises independent claim 16 to include the subject matter of objected-to claim 20 (which is being cancelled), but not the intervening claims. Claim 16 now recites “a first input cascode transistor having ... a drain coupled with the gate of the first input mirror transistor ...”, so it is respectfully submitted that the claim is patentable over Takeyabu.

Since the remaining claims depend from the independent claims discussed above and recite additional limitations to further define the invention, they are patentable along with the independent claims and need not be further discussed.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allen Wood", is written over a horizontal line.

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